

18th Annual Truman Managed Deer Hunt for Individuals with Physical Disabilities a Huge Success

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Photo By Koi Henderson**

WARSAW, Mo. -- The Shawnee Masonic Lodge No. 653 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sponsored the 18th Annual Truman Managed Deer Hunt for individuals with physical disabilities Nov. 8 and 9 at the Shawnee Bend and Berry Bend recreation areas at Harry S. Truman Lake.

The combined resources and partnership of the Shawnee Masonic Lodge #653, local non-profit organizations and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers make the event possible every year. Many



local sponsors, guides and volunteers worked long hours to make this a successful managed deer hunt.

Hunters and volunteers alike arrived at 4 a.m. both days to enjoy a hearty breakfast before heading to the woods. Drew Allen and his crew were up well before everyone else preparing food for breakfast and lunch.

The early morning start allowed participants enough time to eat, review safety rules, draw for deer blinds and match hunters with

guides. Deer guides assisted the hunters with everything from getting into their blinds to transporting their deer. Many of the guides and hunters have formed long-lasting relationships and look forward the managed hunt every year.

Cool temperatures gave hunters a great opportunity. A total of 24 hunters participated in this year's hunt, harvesting 25 deer. Each hunter is allowed to take three deer using one "any deer" and two "antlerless" deer tags. The managed deer hunt allows individuals with permanent physical disabilities to experience a hunting opportunity they might not have on their own and also helps keep the park's deer population under control.

To ensure the accuracy that can lead to a safe shooting experience and a clean deer harvest, the hunters were given an opportunity to sight-in their rifles the day before the hunt at the Golden Valley Shooting Range near Clinton, Mo. Hunters were allowed uninterrupted target practice under a special use permit issued by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

The event included a random drawing for several door prizes. Many of the hunters and guides received items donated by sponsors throughout the Truman Lake area. Businesses from

Warsaw, Clinton and Sedalia donated the door prizes, a refrigerated cooler and food for breakfast and lunch.

As its popularity increases, the hunt is drawing the interest of hunters, guides, and sponsors from all over the state of Missouri.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Harry S. Truman Lake would like to thank the teams consisting of Junior Young, Jack Williams, Drew Allen, Jim Thompson and Dick Lewis who put in long hours coordinating guides, providing meals and assuring the safety of the hunters.

Photo above: Hunter David Petersen and his guide, Trey Glenn, both of Sedalia, Mo., participated in the 18th Annual Truman Managed Deer Hunt. Petersen harvested three deer during the hunt, including a nice eight-point buck.